individual ownership of land in the reserve area /reserve forests is not practiced, so there is no need to confer any rights on the tribal's living in the tribal reserve / reserve forests until they come forward and claim for it. In view of this no forest rights have yet been conferred on any tribals.

There are no forest qualify for encroachers who being other traditional forest dwellers having resided on the forest land for bonafide for three livelihood needs generations (75 years) prior to cut off date i.e., 13th day of December, 2005 for the purpose of recognition of forest rights under the Forest Right Act (FRA). So the question of Conferring forest rights on other traditional forest dwellers either does not arise. Thus there is no scope for indiscriminate distribution of land under the FRA in respect of this UT.

Paras 2-24

In view of our comments in respect of Para 1 none of the issues raised in the subsequent paras by the Petitioner concern the Tribal Welfare Department.

Accordingly a draft of the comments with a covering letter have been prepared and the same is putup for approval please.

Director (TW)

Souliw

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